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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/888,400	06/26/2001	Reedok Lee	LEE3007/EM/6931	9479
23364	7590	11/19/2003	EXAMINER	
BACON & THOMAS, PLLC 625 SLATERS LANE FOURTH FLOOR ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			ELVE, MARIA ALEXANDRA	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1725	

DATE MAILED: 11/19/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Araki et al. (US Pat. 5,821,500).

Araki et al. discloses a process and the welding wire obtained from it. The wire is subjected to an optimal heat treatment in order to modify the hardness. The wire is drawn to 2 to 4 mm in diameter with a hardness of the outer skin controlled to a Vickers hardness of 180 to 250 Hv. The raw wire having a hardness of 150 to 250 Hv.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 5-6 & 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Araki et al.

Araki et al. discloses a process and the welding wire obtained from it. The wire is subjected to an optimal heat treatment in order to modify the hardness. The wire is drawn to 2 to 4 mm in diameter with a hardness of the outer skin controlled to a Vickers hardness of 180 to 250 Hv. The raw wire having a hardness of 150 to 250 Hv.

Araki et al. does not teach the exact hardness difference as instant claims. The prior art discloses a product substantially similar to a claimed product, differing only in the manner by which it is produced. It has been held that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have considered the claimed product to have been obvious because of the similarity in the properties, and overlapping ranges. The burden falls to the applicant to show that any process steps associated with the claimed product result in a materially different product from those of the prior art, because there is nothing in the record before the examiner to reasonably conclude that applicant's product differs in kind from those obtained by the references. See *In re Brown* 173 USPQ 685 and *In re Fessmann* 180 USPQ 324.

Response to Amendment

Applicant's amendment necessitated new grounds of rejection. The response to applicant's arguments is moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to M. Alexandra Elve whose telephone number is 703-308-0092. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30-3:00 Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tom Dunn can be reached on 703-308-3318. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-305-3599.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.

November 16, 2003.


M. ALEXANDRA ELVE
PRIMARY EXAMINER